

Letterkenny Army Depot
Chambersburg
Franklin County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-79

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Letterkenny Army Depot

PA-79

Location: In the Cumberland Valley near Chambersburg in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

Date of Construction: Established in 1942.

Owner: Department of the Army

Significance: Letterkenny Army Depot was established early in World War II as an ammunition storage facility. Its role was expanded only months after it opened in late 1942 to include the maintenance, repair, and storage of other military materials and equipment. A number of interesting pre-military structures are scattered throughout the base.

Historical Report
Prepared by: Robert Hatheway and Hasishi Bill Sugaya, 1984.

Prepared for
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Letterkenny Army Depot, located on 19,511 acres of rolling terrain in the Cumberland Valley near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, is part of the Army's Depot System Command (DESCOM). Established early in World War II as an ammunition storage facility, its role was expanded only months after it opened in late 1942 to include the maintenance, repair, and storage of other military materials and equipment. The depot still fulfills this function today. The majority of the approximately 1800 buildings at Letterkenny were constructed as storage facilities. About two-thirds of them were built during World War II, with most of the remainder constructed in the 1950's. A number of interesting pre-military structures are scattered throughout the base, including the James Finley House (c. 1778) which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites.

There are no Category I historic properties at Letterkenny. The Finley House, a prominent stone and brick farmhouse, is a Category II historic property. Category III historic properties include the base chapel--a World War II era building constructed by Italian prisoners of war; the brick barn adjacent to the Finley House; the Officers' Club, which was converted from a particularly attractive and well sited dairy barn; the Guest House--a former farmhouse adjacent to the Officers' Club; and another pre-military farmhouse of architectural interest.

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PREFACE

This report presents the results of an historic properties survey of Letterkenny Army Depot. Prepared for the United States Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM), the report is intended to assist the Army in bringing this installation into compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its amendments, and related federal laws and regulations. To this end, the report focuses on the identification, evaluation, documentation, nomination, and preservation of historic properties at Letterkenny. Chapter 1 sets forth the survey's scope and methodology; Chapter 2 presents an architectural, historical, and technological overview of the installation and its properties; and Chapter 3 identifies significant properties by Army category and sets forth preservation recommendations. Illustrations and an annotated bibliography supplement the text.

This report is part of a program initiated through a memorandum of agreement between the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of the Army. The program covers 74 DARCOM installations and has two components: 1) a survey of historic properties (districts, buildings, structures, and objects), and 2) the development of archeological overviews. Stanley H. Fried, Chief, Real Estate Branch of Headquarters DARCOM, directed the program for the Army, and Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) directed the program for the National Park Service. Sally Kress Tompkins was program manager, and Robie S. Lange was project manager for the historic properties survey. Technical assistance was provided by Donald C. Jackson.

Building Technology Incorporated acted as primary contractor to HABS/HAER for the historic properties survey. William A. Brenner was principal-in-charge and Dr. Larry D. Lankton was the chief technical consultant. Major subcontractors were the MacDonald and Mack Partnership and Melvyn Green and Associates. The authors of this report were Roger Hatheway and Hasishi Bill Sugaya. The authors gratefully acknowledge the help of James Coccagna of the Facilities Engineering Office.

The complete HABS/HAER documentation for this installation will be included in the HABS/HAER collections at the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, under the designation HAER No. PA-79.

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

This report is based on an historic properties survey conducted in 1982 of all Army-owned properties located within the official boundaries of Letterkenny Army Depot. The survey included the following tasks:

- Completion of documentary research on the history of the installation and its properties.
- Completion of a field inventory of all properties at the installation.
- Preparation of a combined architectural, historical, and technological overview for the installation.
- Evaluation of historic properties and development of recommendations for preservation of these properties.

Also completed as a part of the historic properties survey of the installation, but not included in this report, are HABS/HAER Inventory cards for 78 individual properties. These cards, which constitute HABS/HAER Documentation Level IV, will be provided to the Department of the Army. Archival copies of the cards, with their accompanying photographic negatives, will be transmitted to the HABS/HAER collections at the Library of Congress.

The methodology used to complete these tasks is described in the following section of this report.

METHODOLOGY

1. Documentary Research

Letterkenny Army Depot is a part of the U.S. Army Depot System Command (DESCOM), and the majority of its buildings and structures are used for storage purposes. Documentary research centered on the developmental history of Letterkenny and its role as an Army storage facility. The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office was contacted about possible historic properties at Letterkenny, but no historic properties were identified by this source except the Finley House, which is listed on the National Register and on the Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites. Additional documentation on Letterkenny was found at the Chambersburg Public Library.

Army records used for the field inventory included current Real Property Inventory (RPI) printouts that listed all officially recorded buildings and structures by facility classification and date of construction; the installation's property record cards; base maps and photographs supplied by installation personnel; and installation master planning, archeological, environmental assessment, and related reports and documents. A complete listing of documentary material may be found in the bibliography.

2. Field Inventory

The field inventory was conducted by Melvyn Green, Roger Hatheway, Hasishi Bill Sugaya, John Johnson, and David Buchanan during the first week of December, 1982. Assistance was provided by Mr. James Coccagna

of the Facilities Engineering Office at Letterkenny, and Eve Harris, the DESCOM historian.

Field inventory procedures were based on the HABS/HAER Guidelines for Inventories of Historic Buildings and Engineering and Industrial Structures.¹ All areas and properties were visually surveyed. Building locations and approximate dates of construction were noted from the installation's property records and field-verified. Interior surveys were made of the Post Chapel (Building 637) and the Officers' Club (Building 529) to examine their interior construction and architectural treatment.

Field inventory forms were prepared for, and black and white 35 mm photographs taken of all buildings and structures through 1945 except basic utilitarian structures of no architectural, historical, or technological interest. When groups of similar ("prototypical") buildings were found, one field form was normally prepared to represent all buildings of that type. Field inventory forms were also completed for representative post-1945 buildings and structures.² Information collected on the field forms was later evaluated, condensed, and transferred to HABS/HAER Inventory cards.

3. Historic Overview

A combined architectural, historical, and technological overview was prepared from information developed from the documentary research and the field inventory. It was written in two parts: 1) an introductory description of the installation, and 2) a history of the installation by

periods of development, beginning with pre-military land uses. Maps and photographs were selected to supplement the text as appropriate.

The objectives of the overview were to 1) establish the periods of major construction at the installation, 2) identify important events and individuals associated with specific historic properties, 3) describe patterns and locations of historic property types, and 4) analyze specific building and industrial technologies employed at the installation.

4. Property Evaluation and Preservation Measures

Based on information developed in the historical overviews, properties were first evaluated for historical significance in accordance with the eligibility criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. These criteria require that eligible properties possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and that they meet one or more of the following:³

- A. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Are associated with the lives of persons significant in the nation's past.
- C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

D. Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

Properties thus evaluated were further assessed for placement in one of five Army historic property categories as described in Army Regulation 420-40:⁴

Category I	Properties of major importance
Category II	Properties of importance
Category III	Properties of minor importance
Category IV	Properties of little or no importance
Category V	Properties detrimental to the significance of adjacent historic properties

Based on an extensive review of the architectural, historical, and technological resources identified on DARCOM installations nationwide, four criteria were developed to help determine the appropriate categorization level for each Army property. These criteria were used to assess the importance not only of properties of traditional historical interest, but of the vast number of standardized or prototypical buildings, structures, and production processes that were built and put into service during World War II, as well as of properties associated with many post-war technological achievements. The four criteria were often used in combination and are as follows:

- 1) Degree of importance as a work of architectural, engineering, or industrial design. This criterion took into account the qualitative factors by which design is normally judged: artistic merit, workmanship, appropriate use of materials, and functionality.
- 2) Degree of rarity as a remaining example of a once widely used architectural, engineering, or industrial design or process. This criterion was applied primarily to the many standardized or prototypical DARCOM buildings, structures, or industrial processes. The more widespread or influential the design or process, the greater the importance of the remaining examples of the design or process was considered to be. This criterion was also used for non-military structures such as farmhouses and other once prevalent building types.
- 3) Degree of integrity or completeness. This criterion compared the current condition, appearance, and function of a building, structure, architectural assemblage, or industrial process to its original or most historically important condition, appearance, and function. Those properties that were highly intact were generally considered of greater importance than those that were not.
- 4) Degree of association with an important person, program, or event. This criterion was used to examine the relationship of a property to a famous personage, wartime project, or similar factor that lent the property special importance.

The majority of DARCOM properties were built just prior to or during World War II, and special attention was given to their evaluation. Those that still remain do not often possess individual importance, but collectively they represent the remnants of a vast construction undertaking whose architectural, historical, and technological importance needed to be assessed before their numbers diminished further. This assessment centered on an extensive review of the military construction of the 1940-1945 period, and its contribution to the history of World War II and the post-war Army landscape.

Because technology has advanced so rapidly since the war, post-World War II properties were also given attention. These properties were evaluated in terms of the nation's more recent accomplishments in weaponry, rocketry, electronics, and related technological and scientific endeavors. Thus the traditional definition of "historic" as a property 50 or more years old was not germane in the assessment of either World War II or post-war DARCOM buildings and structures; rather, the historic importance of all properties was evaluated as completely as possible regardless of age.

Property designations by category are expected to be useful for approximately ten years, after which all categorizations should be reviewed and updated.

Following this categorization procedure, Category I, II, and III historic properties were analyzed in terms of:

- Current structural condition and state of repair. This information was taken from the field inventory forms and photographs, and was often supplemented by rechecking with facilities engineering personnel.
- The nature of possible future adverse impacts to the property. This information was gathered from the installation's master planning documents and rechecked with facilities engineering personnel.

Based on the above considerations, the general preservation recommendations presented in Chapter 3 for Category I, II, and III historic properties were developed. Special preservation recommendations were created for individual properties as circumstances required.

5. Report Review

Prior to being completed in final form, this report was subjected to an in-house review by Building Technology Incorporated. It was then sent in draft to the subject installation for comment and clearance and, with its associated historical materials, to HABS/HAER staff for technical review. When the installation cleared the report, additional draft copies were sent to DARCOM, the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer, and, when requested, to the archeological contractor performing parallel work at the installation. The report was revised based on all comments collected, then published in final form.

NOTES

1. Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, Guidelines for Inventories of Historic Buildings and Engineering and Industrial Structures (unpublished draft, 1982).
2. Representative post-World War II buildings and structures were defined as properties that were: (a) "representative" by virtue of construction type, architectural type, function, or a combination of these, (b) of obvious Category I, II, or III historic importance, or (c) prominent on the installation by virtue of size, location, or other distinctive feature.
3. National Park Service, How to Complete National Register Forms (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, January 1977).
4. Army Regulation 420-40, Historic Preservation (Headquarters, U.S. Army: Washington, D.C., 15 April 1984).

Chapter 2

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The primary mission of Letterkenny Army Depot is to receive, store, ship, and maintain commodities used in support of active military operations. Letterkenny is also the headquarters for the Army's Depot System Command (DESCOM). The facility occupies 19,511 acres of rolling terrain in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, a part of the Cumberland Valley.

Letterkenny is divided into two major areas. The main base area, located primarily in the southeast quadrant of the property, includes virtually all of the housing, administrative and logistical offices, repair shops, and major storage areas for wheeled and tracked vehicles. The second area is restricted and consists of both above-ground and below-ground ammunition storage facilities and several major ammunition renovation shops.¹ (Figures 1 and 2)

The depot site was selected in December 1941 and construction began early in 1942, with emphasis being given to the completion of the ammunition storage facilities. Most World War II construction was completed by the end of 1942, and the majority of these buildings remain, although many serve in a capacity different from the original use. Initially, Letterkenny Depot served primarily for ammunition storage and shipment. This mission radically expanded in May, 1943 to include the repair of heavy general purpose vehicles, small arms, and the renovation and preservation of weaponry. At war's end,

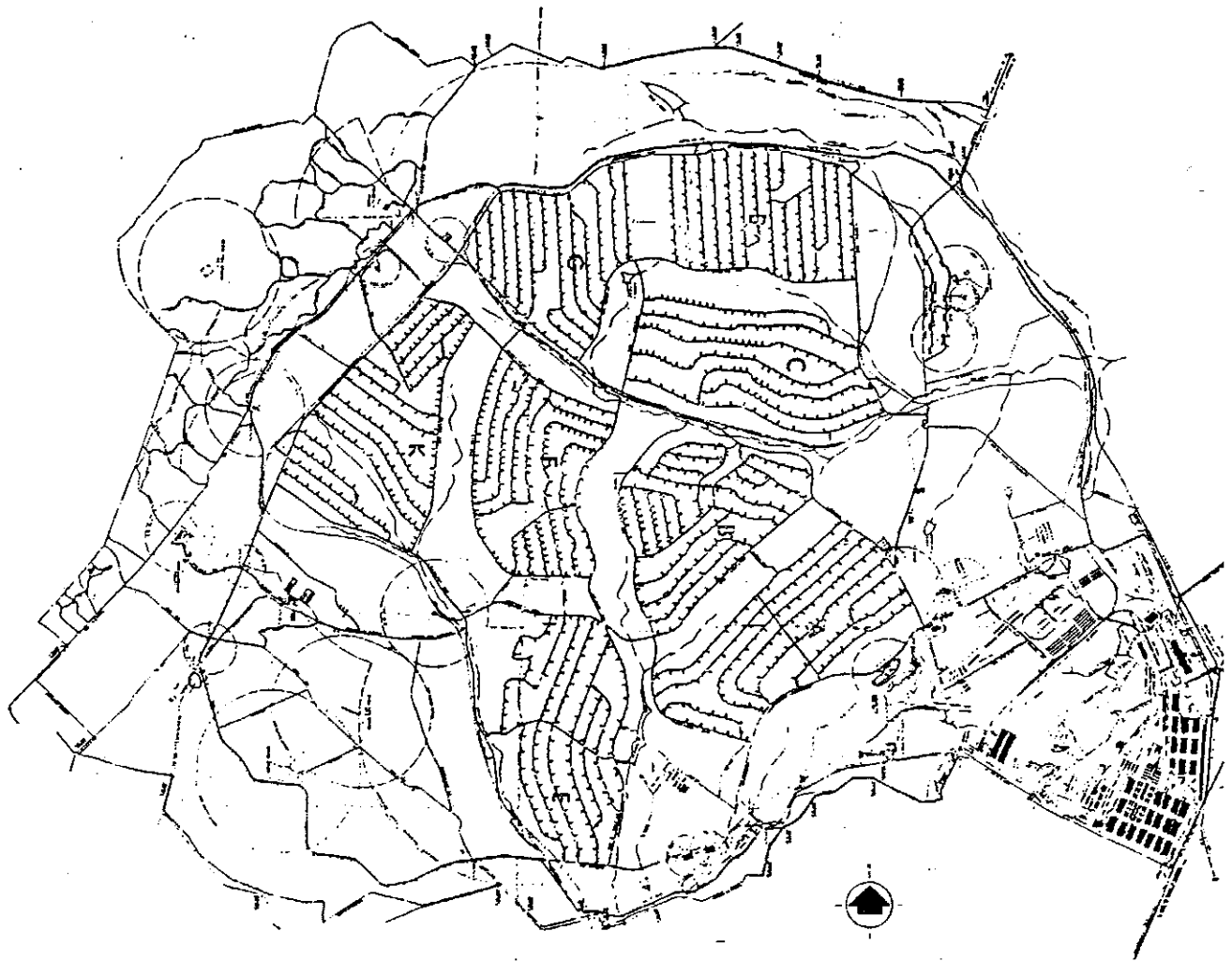


Figure 1: Map showing the entire 19,511 acre Letterkenny Army Depot. The main base area is located in the southeast corner of the depot (see also Figure 2). The remainder of the base is devoted primarily to igloo storage. (Source: Letterkenny Army Depot Master Plan, Building Area Map, 1 June 1979)

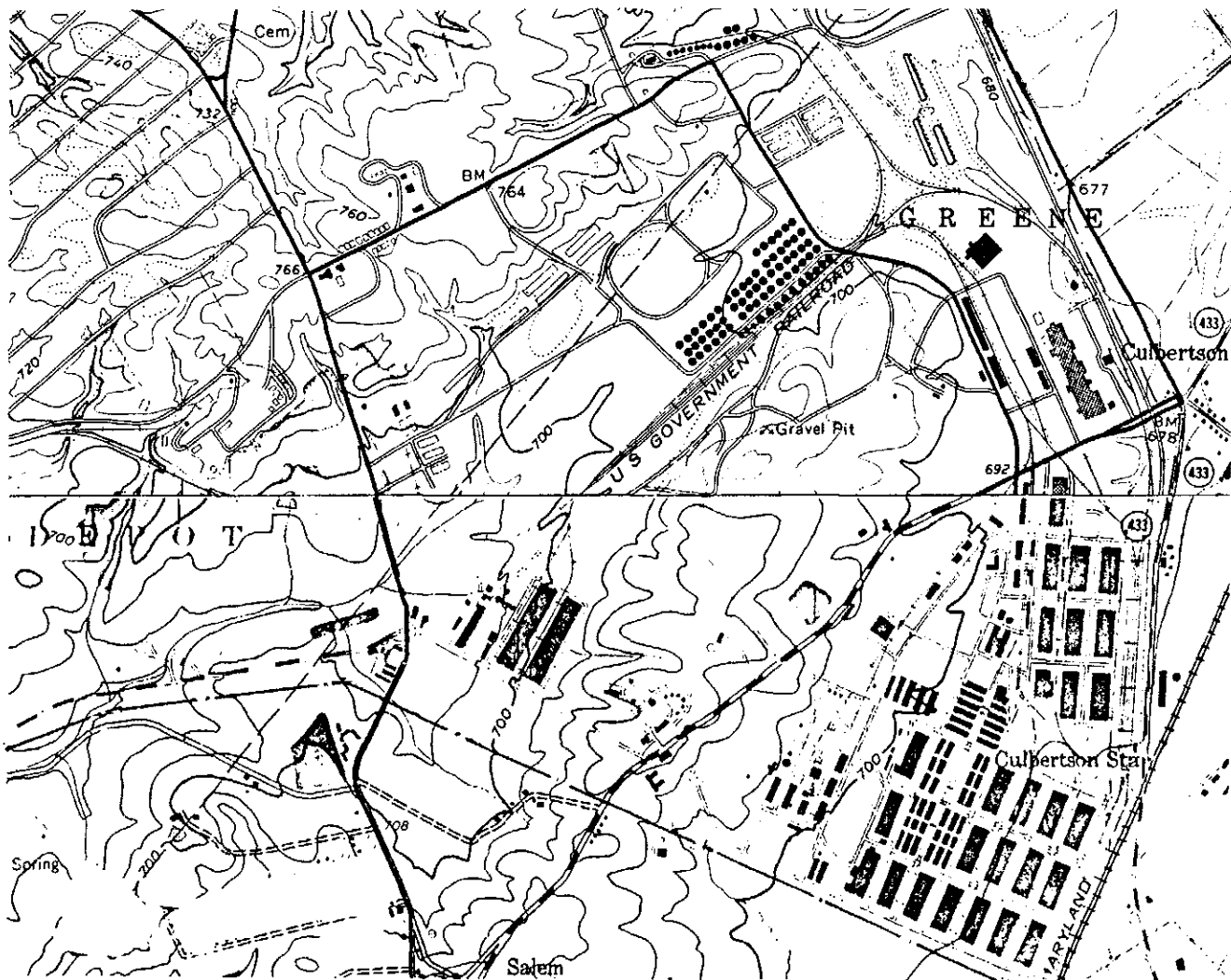


Figure 2: Map of the main base area, Letterkenny Army Depot. The principal warehouse facilities are indicated by the large, dark rectangular structures in the lower right and middle of the map. The series of small, closely spaced circular structures in the upper middle of the map are the humidity controlled storage buildings in the tank farm. (Source: U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangles for Chambersburg and Roxbury, Pennsylvania, revised 1973)

Letterkenny's mission was again expanded to include demilitarization of unserviceable ammunition. A large number of storage and maintenance facilities constructed in 1948 accommodated the reconditioning and storage of both wheeled and tracked vehicles.

A third major period of construction at Letterkenny began during the Korean War and peaked in 1955. Building activities included the construction of additional administration, repair, and storage buildings. Subsequently, there have been only minor periods of growth at the installation.

CIVILIAN LAND USE PRIOR TO 1941

The area currently comprising Letterkenny Army Depot was chiefly agricultural prior to military acquisition of the property in 1941. Several town and school sites, including Keefers, Maple Grove, Oak Grove, and Willow Grove, were located within the present base boundaries. Their buildings and structures were virtually all demolished during the initial phase of construction.² The following pre-military buildings and structures remain:

- Nine farmhouses (Buildings 503, 505, 539, 1398, 1399, 2279, 2323, 3231, and 3244). These buildings are primarily two stories in height with masonry foundations and either masonry load bearing or wood frame walls. The oldest known building (c. 1778) is the James Finley House (Building 505, now the Commanding Officer's residence). This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites.³ The remaining farmhouses, all still used as living quarters, have not been accurately

dated, but range in age from the late eighteenth century to the 1920's or 1930's. (Figures 3, 4, and 5)

- Four barns (Buildings 507, 529, 3237, and 3254). These buildings are primarily two stories in height, have masonry foundations, and are of heavy timber construction. The oldest known barn (Building 507) dates from 1848 and is adjacent to the James Finley House. The remaining barns have all been converted to another use: Officers' Club (Building 529), Hobby Shop (Building 3237), and Rod and Gun Club (Building 3254). (Figures 6 and 7)
- Five bridges. These structures, all built between 1906 and 1925, are of minor span and employ concrete construction. Several are currently used as part of the active base transportation network. None are of historical significance in terms of design, construction, or use.
- Five stone furnace ruins. Five ruins that are likely associated with the nineteenth century iron industry are located in a remote area of the depot. They are of crudely dressed stone construction and are laid up without mortar. The interior diameter of the shafts vary from 7 to 10 feet, and the structures vary in height from rubble to approximately 15 feet. No one at the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or at the base has been able to provide additional information on the five furnaces, but the SHPO provided information on other furnace sites in Franklin County. These include the Franklin Furnace (1828), which is listed on the Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places, the Soundwell Forge

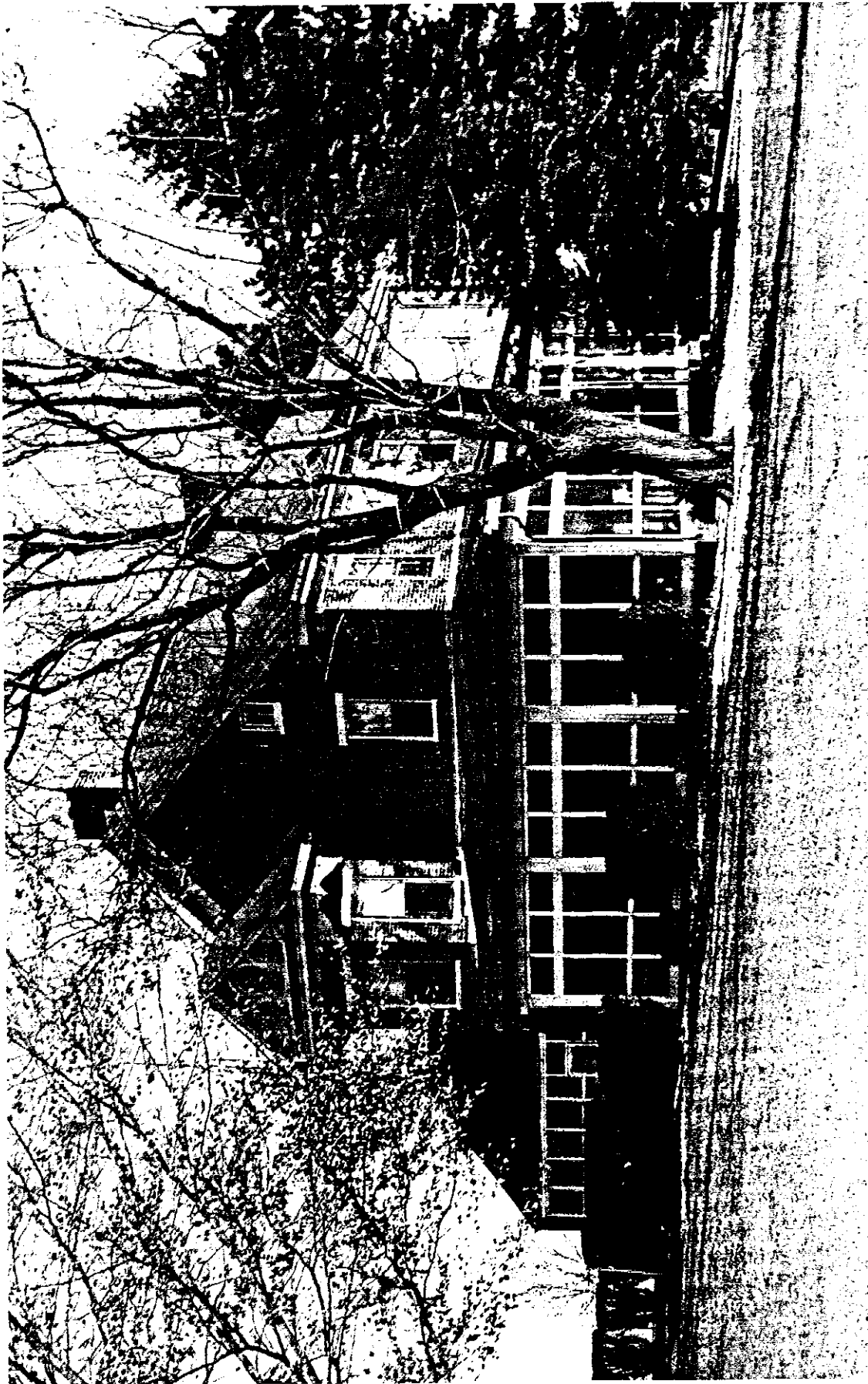


Figure 3: Commanding Officer's Residence, (James Finley House, Building 505). View from southwest. Built by James Finley, c. 1778. One of the earliest surviving structures in Franklin County, the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites. (Source: Field inventory photograph, David G. Buchanan, Building Technology, Inc., 1982)

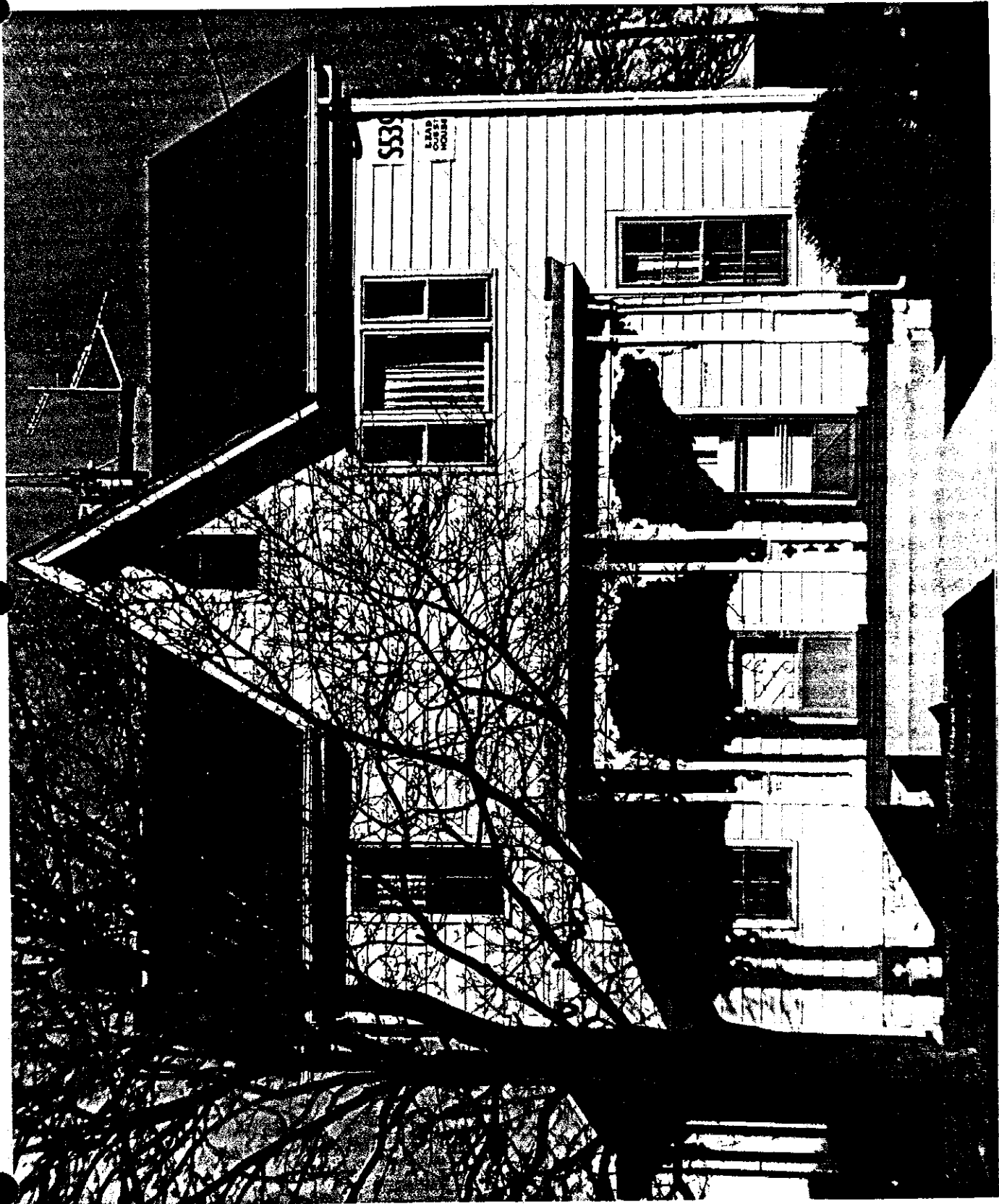


Figure 4: Guest House (Building 539). View of main facade from the southwest. The Guest House was built in the mid-1800's and is just east of the Officers' Club, its former barn. (Source: Field inventory photograph, David G. Buchanan, Building Technology, Inc., 1982)

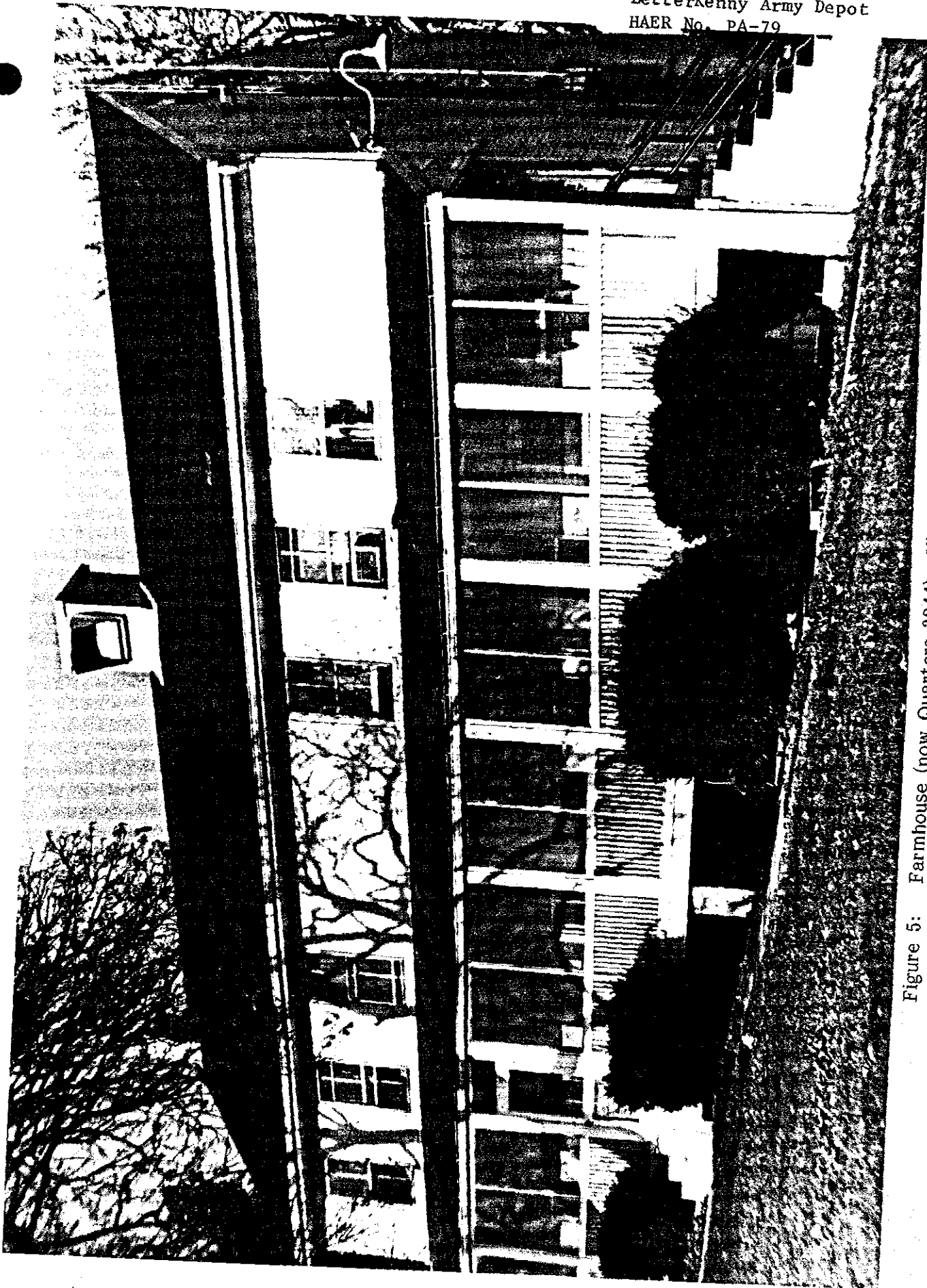


Figure 5: Farmhouse (now Quarters 3244). View of main facade from the southeast. This handsome house probably dates from the early 1800's. (Source: Field inventory photograph, David G. Buchanan, Building Technology, Inc., 1982)

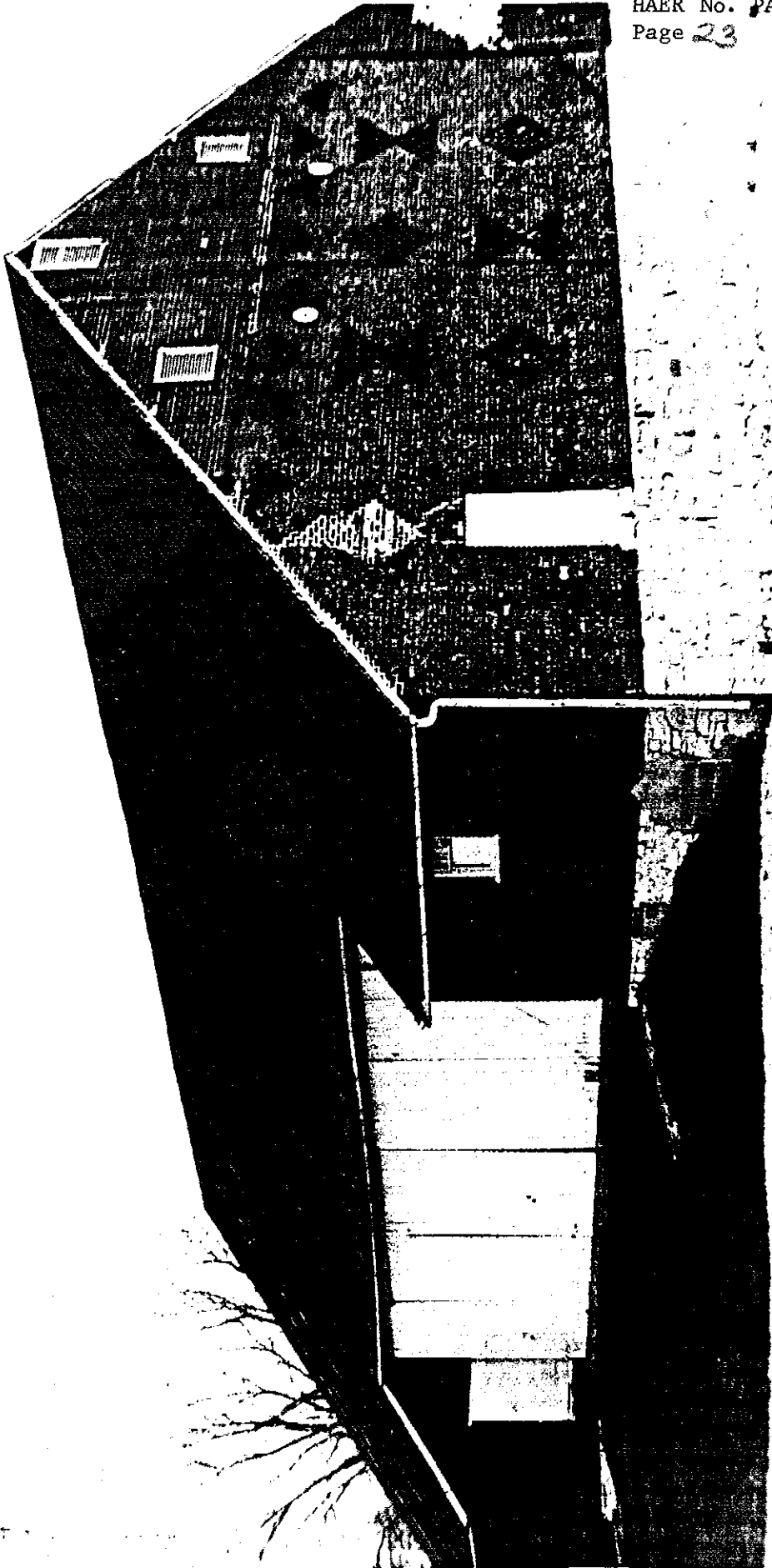


Figure 6: Finley Barn (Building 507). View of southwest brick end wall with patterned ventilating holes. The barn was built c. 1848. (Source: Field inventory photograph, David G. Buchanan, Building Technology, Inc., 1982)

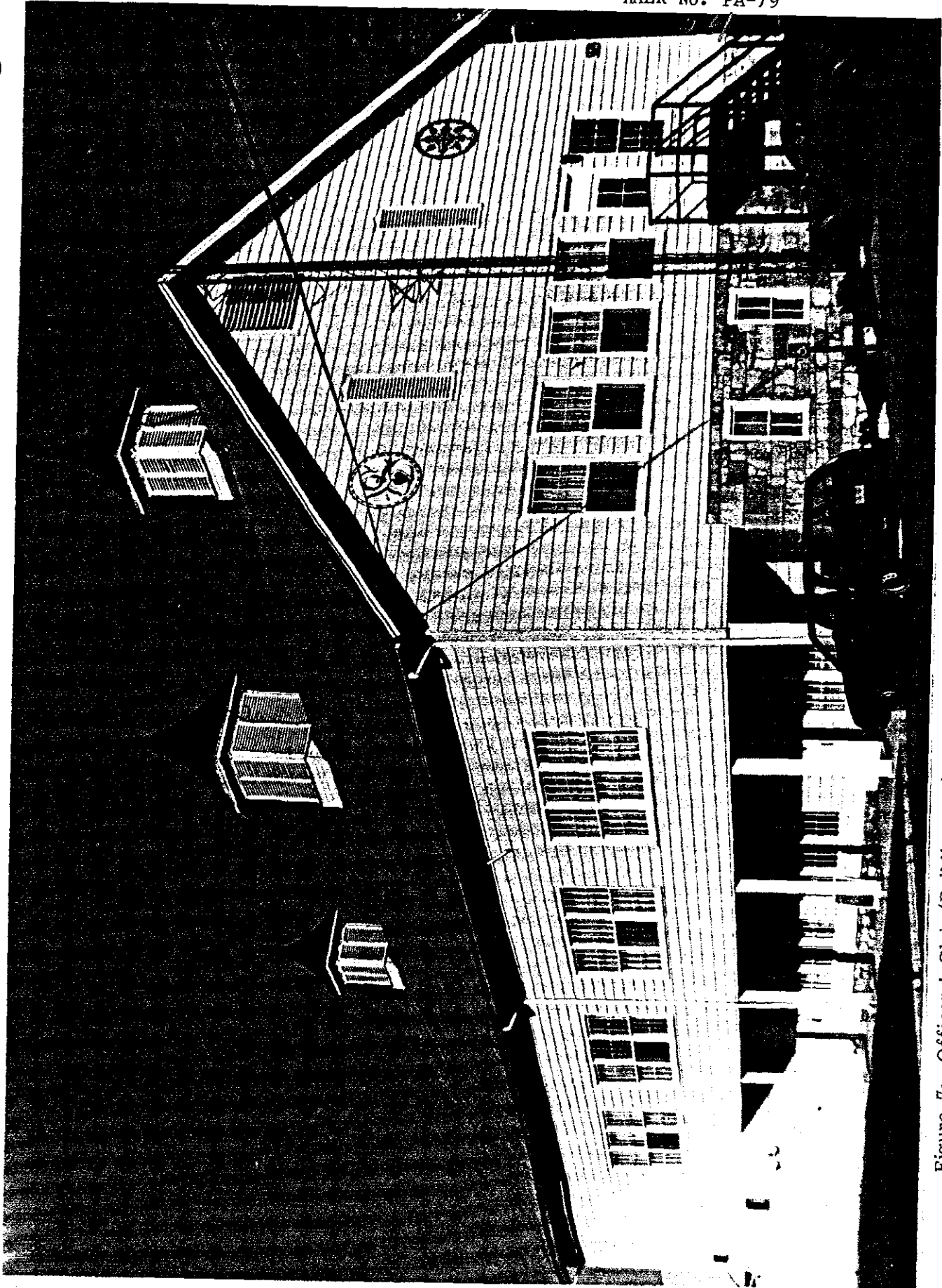


Figure 7: Officers' Club (Building 529). View from southeast. This structure was converted from a dairy barn and is located just west of the Guest House. It is dated 1892. (Source: Field inventory photograph, David G. Buchanan, Building Technology, Inc., 1982)

(c. 1798), the Roxbury Furnace (c. 1815), the Warren Furnace and Forge (c. 1830), the Carrick Furnace (c. 1828), and the Richmond Furnace (c. 1865). The Kittochtinny Historical Society's "Birth of the Iron Industry in Franklin County,"⁴ is also silent on the Letterkenny furnaces. Archeological investigations may, however, produce additional information on the five sites. (Figure 8)

- Grist mill ruins. Jacob Kasey constructed this mill in 1854; it is locally known as West Mill. Virtually nothing is left of the main brick structure.⁵
- Ruins of a house and a barn. The ruins of a wood frame house and a timber framed barn are located in two different relatively remote parts of the installation.

DEPOT SITE SELECTION

On December 18, 1941, the War Department announced plans to acquire approximately 16,000 acres near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, for the construction of an ordnance depot. This site was suitable for the storage of ammunition because it was near enough to the eastern coast to be accessible to seaborne shipment, yet distant enough to be safe from coastal attack. Railroad lines, essential for the rapid deployment of supplies and ammunition, also ran near the site. In addition, the climate and terrain of central Pennsylvania were suitable for ammunition storage; the natural water supply at nearby Rocky Springs was excellent; and much of the land had already been cleared for agricultural purposes.⁶



Figure 8: Stone Furnace Ruins. One of five such sites located in the magazine area of the depot. (Source: Field inventory photograph, Roger Hatheway, Melvyn Green Associates, 1982)

Construction of the facility had a widespread and continuing impact on the local community. The Army displaced 225 families and an estimated 944 individuals, and it acquired eight schools, five churches, and nine cemeteries. The Army demolished most residential structures and all churches and schools. It retained the cemeteries, which it still maintains.

WORLD WAR II CONSTRUCTION

Work on the depot began immediately following site selection. In December 1941, the prime architectural and engineering contract for the depot was awarded to William Lozier, Inc. of Rochester, New York.⁷ Three months later, a contract for the construction of 30 miles of railway was awarded to the firm of Ferguson and Edmondson of Pittsburgh. This included necessary connections to the trunk line and all of the feeder tracks leading into the ammunition storage areas. Simultaneously, a contract for the construction of 50 miles of roads was awarded to the firm of B. Perini and Sons of Framingham, Massachusetts.⁸ The rapid completion of the transportation network was essential to support the massive construction program for buildings and ammunition storage facilities that was to follow.

Construction proceeded in a highly scheduled manner. All preparations were geared toward the completion of the underground igloos and the aboveground magazines. Few support buildings were constructed during the initial phases, with the exception of several warehouses to store construction materials. Initially, construction materials were scarce and various extant structures, such as barns and farmhouses, were temporarily utilized. The Army subsequently demolished the majority of these buildings to make way for new construction,

and it salvaged their materials for reuse. An automatic nail puller was invented to clean salvaged lumber, and was later mass produced under government contract by a Chambersburg firm.⁹ When Letterkenny received its first shipments of ammunition on September 23, 1942, three weeks ahead of schedule, its basic facilities had been completed.

Initially, the Letterkenny Ordnance Depot's primary mission was to receive, store, and issue ammunition. This mission changed substantially during the following years. One of the first major changes involved a program for correcting a design defect in tanks. By mid-1943, Letterkenny's mission expanded to include the repair and maintenance of other equipment, including small arms, and the reclamation and handling of all unserviceable property from other posts in the First, Second, and Third Service Commands. Additional depot functions included the assignment of spare parts supply for heavy duty general purpose vehicles early in 1945. By V-J Day, Letterkenny had shipped over three million tons of ammunition and supplies.¹⁰

The majority of the buildings and structures constructed during World War II are still in service, and are described as follows:

Ammunition and Storage Igloos. There are 802 standard storage igloos of the original single door type. These are concrete structures 60 or 80 feet in depth with a steel door set into a concrete surround. They are covered by an earthen mound and are spaced systematically to prevent sympathetic explosion. Built in 1942, they are located in areas A through G, and K. Associated with the igloos are concrete "safe houses," also of standard design, which are intended to provide personnel protection in the event of an explosion. (Figure 9)



Figure 9: Storage Igloo A-1-01. One of 780 standard storage igloos of the original single door type constructed at Letterkenny in 1942. (Source: Field inventory photograph, Roger Hatheway, Melvyn Green Associates, 1982)

Aboveground Magazines. One major group of twelve aboveground magazines (Buildings 5300-5311) was built in 1942. These buildings have concrete foundations, brick and tile walls, and asbestos roofs. Ten of these buildings continue to serve as magazines. Building 5300 now serves as a guided missile service facility, and Building 5311 has been converted to an ammunition maintenance facility. All have railway access and are intact with only minor alterations.

A second type of aboveground magazine is found as a single example (Building 3528). Built in 1942, it is a small structure with a concrete foundation, tile walls, and a reinforced concrete roof.

Warehouses/Storage. Several distinct types of storage and warehouse facilities are found at Letterkenny. In the ammunition storage area stand one-story structures with concrete foundations, brick walls, and composite roofs. These buildings (1493, 3611, and 3784) are generally associated with some form of railway access. The same basic building unit is occasionally found in a paired group (Buildings 6428 and 6429), and may have a wooden addition connecting the two brick components (Buildings 4516 and 4526). The buildings, originally intended for dunnage storage, are now used for multi-purpose storage. They were built in 1942-1943.

A second major storage/warehouse group is located within the main base area. Buildings 1-10 first functioned as controlled humidity warehouses. They have concrete foundations, timber-frame brick exterior walls, and built-up roofs. All have railway access. Buildings 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10

have been converted to alternate uses ranging from administration to repair shops. The others continue to function in their original capacity. Buildings 31-34, 37, 41-44, 47, and 51-57, also constructed as controlled humidity warehouses, are similar to the above-mentioned structures with the exception of minor additions or variations in docking facilities. All of these buildings were constructed in 1943, and the majority continue to function in their original capacity. Buildings 37, 47, and 57 are similar to the above, but have been modified in plan and elevation through minor additions. (Figure 10)

A third major warehouse group on the main base consists of temporary storage shelters. These are steel frame and metal wall structures with one open facade (Buildings TS-20, 1-5; TS-25, 2-7; TS-26, 1-6; TS-35, 1-6; TS-45, 1-9; TS-46, 1-9).

Seven additional warehouse facilities exist on the main base area. These consist primarily of concrete foundation, brick wall, and built-up roof structures designed in a rectangular building plan. A number have been converted to alternate use (Buildings 11, 12, 13, 18, 421, 431, and 441). All were constructed in 1942-1943.

Repair Facilities. Originally, two units (Buildings 2383 and 2384) were built in what now comprise the Ammunition Workshop Area. These have concrete foundations with brick walls. Building 2384 has been converted from a heating plant to a Change House, while Building 2383 continues to serve in its original capacity. Both were constructed in 1943.

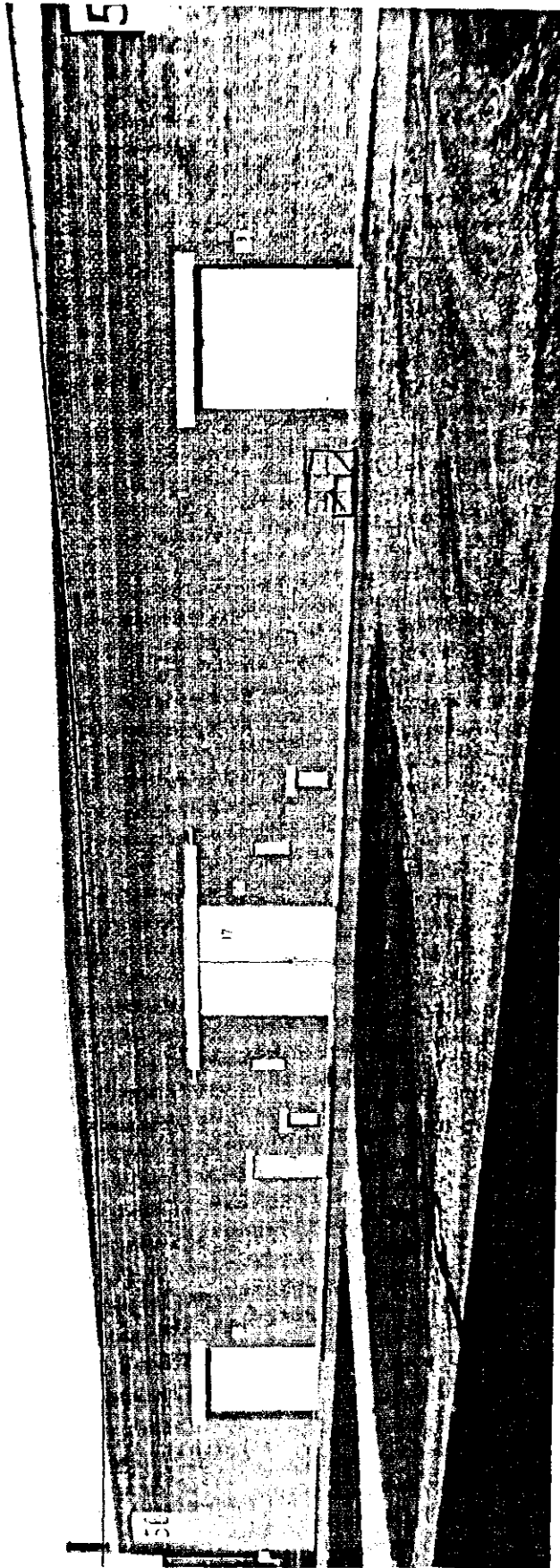


Figure 10: Humidity Controlled Warehouse (Building 56). One of approximately 30 warehouses constructed for humidity controlled storage in 1943. (Source: Field inventory photograph, David G. Buchanan, Building Technology, Inc., 1982)

A second major ammunition repair facility was constructed at the same time as the above. This complex includes four structures (Buildings 1465, 1466, 1467, and 1457) and a Popping Plant adjacent to Building 1457. The repair facility was originally intended for ammunition renovation but has been converted to an LCL Plant.

Additional ammunition repair facilities consist of structures stylistically represented by Buildings 5662 and 3621. These are rectangular in plan with concrete foundations, concrete block walls, and asphalt shingle roofs. The buildings were constructed in 1944 and are located in diverse areas.

The motor pool area consists of ten buildings (Buildings 422-426, 433-436, and 446). These repair facilities have concrete foundations, steel frames, brick exterior walls, and built-up roofs. The majority continue to function in their original capacity, including the railroad roundhouse and machine shop. All were completed in 1942-1943.

The remaining repair units in the main base area consist of an Optical Shop (Building 14), the Facilities Engineer/Maintenance Shop, (Building 663) the Facilities Engineer Shops and Heating Plant (Building 683), and the Battery Shop (Building 3238). They have concrete foundations with brick exterior walls. The structural system is either load-bearing or wood frame. These buildings were constructed between 1942 and 1945.

Administration. DESCOM Headquarters (Building 522) is a two-story brick structure. It is located in close proximity to the Fire Station (Building 521) and the Sentry Station (Building 511). All were constructed in 1942.

A number of other administration-related buildings are of similar structural type but are found in diverse locations. They have concrete foundations and are wood framed, and are now sided with aluminum (Buildings 616, 238, 581, 523, and 3311). These were constructed from 1942 to 1944.

Two miscellaneous administration buildings are on the Depot. Building 247 was originally a Fire Station, and Building 428 was originally a Change House. They are currently utilized as an EOD Building and a Dispatch Office. Both were constructed in 1943.

Support Services/Housing. The only housing units that continue their original use are Buildings 618 and 628. They have concrete block foundations with wood frames and horizontal aluminum siding, and were constructed in 1943.

Miscellaneous depot support functions are served by a number of buildings of diverse construction. These include Building 637 (Post Chapel), Building 639 (Gymnasium), Building 617 (Hobby Shop), Building 627 (Post Exchange), Building 629 (Package Beverage Store), Building 619 (Noncommissioned Officers' Open Mess), Building 664 (Recreation Building), Building 1481 (Bathhouse), and Building 437 (Thrift Shop). All were constructed from 1942 to 1945. Of these buildings, the Post Chapel is the most historic, due to its unique association with Italian prisoners of war. Members of the Italian Service Unit built it while imprisoned at Letterkenny throughout the Second World War. (Figure 11)

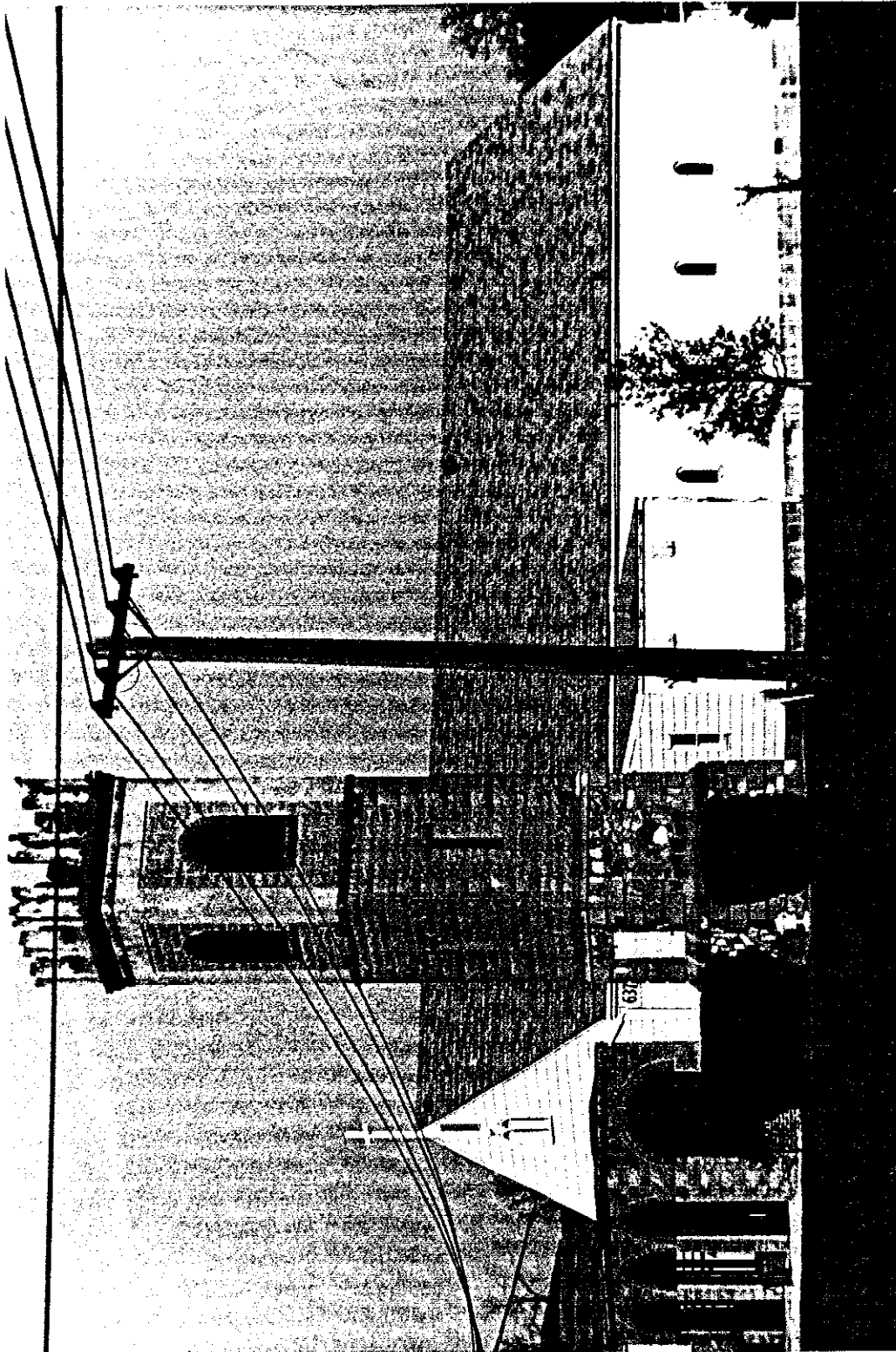


Figure 11: Post Chapel (Building 637). View from south. The chapel was built in 1944 by Italian prisoners of war. Its entry and tower are constructed of red brick and concrete hand-formed to resemble rusticated masonry. (Source: Field inventory photograph, David G. Buchanan, Building Technology, Inc., 1982)

Miscellaneous Facilities. A number of reservoirs and dams are located on base for general water supply, conservation, and fire control purposes. Examples of these are the earthen Letterkenny Dam (1942) and Reservoirs 555 and 556, two concrete holding areas. In addition, a 100,000 gallon elevated steel water tank is located on the main base area.

The above facilities, with the exception of the Chapel, represent standard Army building types, varying only in their adaptation to the site. Few, if any, innovative structures were constructed at Letterkenny during this period.

POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION

The immediate post-war period (1945-1949) saw a shift in responsibilities at Letterkenny as demilitarization progressed. New construction during this time consisted of 308 structures, a substantial number of which were temporary or semi-permanent structures. Those that still remain are used as storage facilities. Examples include Buildings T-3322 through T-3333, T-1501 through T-1552, and T-3401 through T-3422. Originally designated "tropical shelters," they are now primarily used for ammunition storage.

The Tank Farm project, planned and executed from 1946 to 1948, consists of 169 circular metal structures used for humidity controlled storage. (Figure 12)

The ammunition disassembly facilities were expanded on the restricted portion of the base in 1948. Buildings 2761 and 2763 are examples of this type facility. The ammunition renovation shops were expanded in 1949, becoming

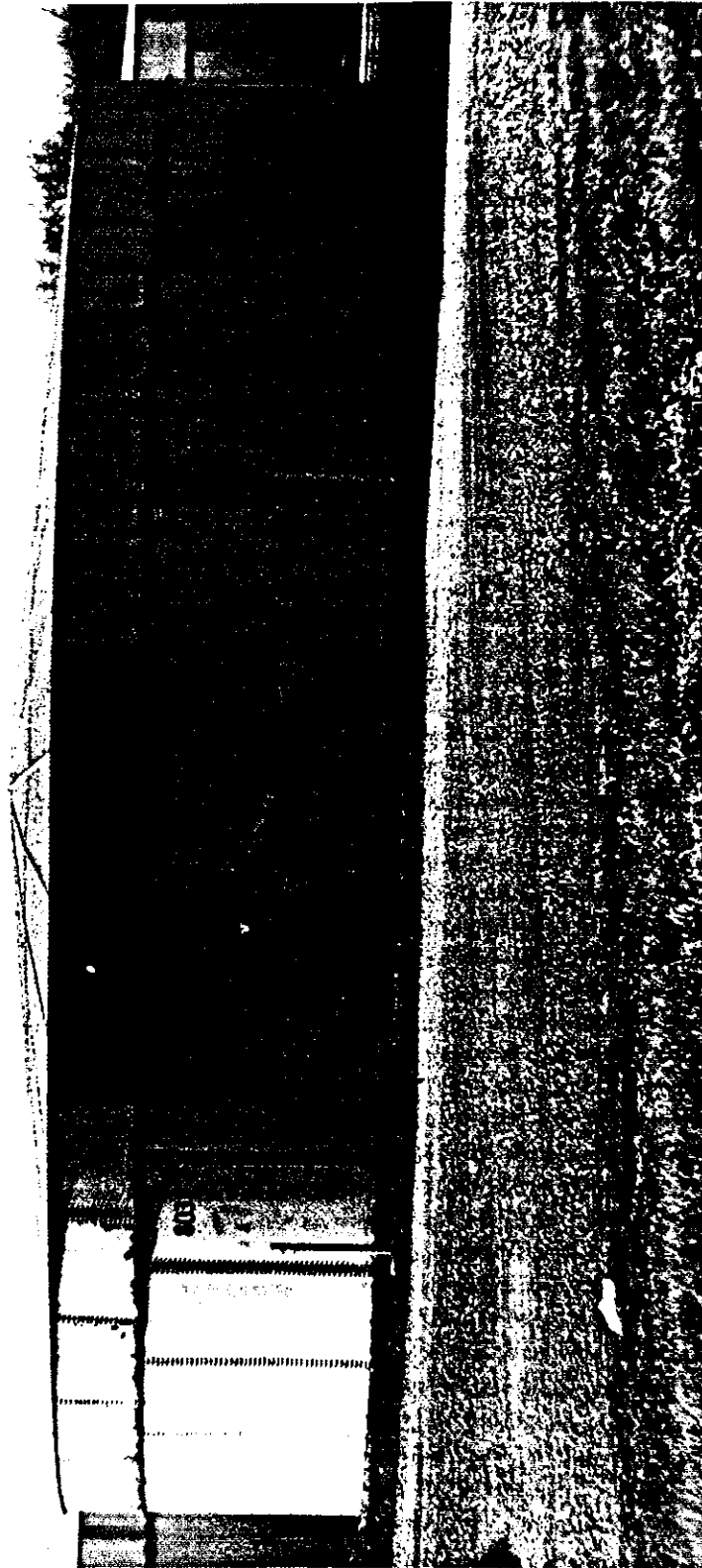


Figure 12: Humidity controlled structure (Building 803) at the Tank Farm. One of 169 circular metal structures erected 1946-1948 for humidity controlled storage. (Source: Field inventory photograph, David G. Buchanan, Building Technology, Inc., 1982)

the present Ammunition Workshop Area. Included in this expansion were Buildings 2360 (Heating Plant), 2363, 2365, 2380, and 2387 (originally Ammunition Renovation Shops).

All of the above structures were built in response to the increased needs for storage and ammunition handling at the end of World War II. In 1950, however, the Korean conflict caused the installation to return to its former function of supplying combat troops in the field. Personnel were increased to meet the demands of this situation, although the immediate war years did not result in substantial new construction.

Following the Korean War, major construction occurred at Letterkenny from 1953 to 1957, when approximately 145 new structures were built. In 1953, two large, 203,000 square foot warehouses (Buildings 651 and 652) were constructed. In 1954, several major structures were built, including the Tank Repair Shop (Building 350), the Post Headquarters (Building 500), and a flammable materials storehouse (Building 19). The construction of 100 igloos of the double-door type in Areas B, C, F, and K increased ammunition storage. A large storage and laboratory complex was built in 1956. This complex includes Buildings 3710, 3701, 3702, 3711, 3720, and 3725.

The Army completed two housing projects during the post-Korean War period: Kenny Gardens (Buildings 600-608) and Kenny Hills (Buildings 540-545). Kenny Gardens has 29 apartment units for enlisted personnel and Kenny Hills consists of eight living units allocated for officers. Both were built as part of the Wherry housing program in 1954. They are similar in construction although not identical in appearance.

In 1957, two important structures began operation, the Guided Missile Maintenance Shop (Building 370) and the Water Treatment Plant (Building 554). The guided missile facility is one of the more important operations on the installation. The Water Treatment Plant is a reinforced concrete building. Water is piped to this facility from a 330 million gallon impounding dam and reservoir (also built in 1957).

After the mid-1950's the base saw a relatively steady but small number of construction projects. A major ammunition renovation facility built in 1969 (Building 3810) is located on the restricted portion of the base area. Another major facility, the Care and Preservation Facility for Combat and Transportation (Building 320) was constructed in 1977.

In summary, construction at Letterkenny during the post-war period has reflected changing requirements for additional storage and/or ammunition renovation. As a group, the buildings constructed at Letterkenny during the post-war period have been built in response to specific logistic needs. Except for the two housing areas, they are of no uniform type or stylistic group, and for the most part are of utilitarian design and construction.

NOTES

1. Robert W. Daniels, "Letterkenny Township and Ordnance Depot," Kittochtinny Historical Society, Vol. XII, 1948, pp. 370-372.
2. D. G. Beers, Atlas of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, 1868.
3. National Register of Historic Places. Nomination for Commanding Officer's Residence (James Finley House), 1969.
4. Harry E. Foreman, "Birth of an Iron Industry in Franklin County," Kittochtinny Historical Society, Vol. XIII, 1955, pp. 390-393.

5. T. B. Wood, "The Old Mills of Franklin County," Kittochtinny Historical Society, Vol. XIII, 1955, pp. 343-359.
6. Letterkenny Ordnance Depot: In War and Peace (Baltimore, Maryland: The Pridemark Press Co., 1956), p. 15.
7. Public Opinion, December 26, 1941.
8. Public Opinion, January 15, 1942.
9. Dee Pardun, Letterkenny Army Depot: 40th Anniversary, 1982, p. 4.
10. Letterkenny Ordnance Depot: In War and Peace. pp. 23 and 30.

Chapter 3

PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

BACKGROUND

Army Regulation 420-40 requires that an historic preservation plan be developed as an integral part of each installation's planning and long range maintenance and development scheduling.¹ The purpose of such a program is to:

- Preserve historic properties to reflect the Army's role in history and its continuing concern for the protection of the nation's heritage.
- Implement historic preservation projects as an integral part of the installation's maintenance and construction programs.
- Find adaptive uses for historic properties in order to maintain them as actively used facilities on the installation.
- Eliminate damage or destruction due to improper maintenance, repair, or use that may alter or destroy the significant elements of any property.
- Enhance the most historically significant areas of the installation through appropriate landscaping and conservation.

To meet these overall preservation objectives, the general preservation recommendations set forth below have been developed:

Category 1 Historic Properties

All Category 1 historic properties not currently listed on or nominated to the National Register of Historic Places are assumed to be eligible for nomination regardless of age. The following general preservation recommendations apply to these properties:

- a) Each Category I historic property should be treated as if it were on the National Register, whether listed or not. Properties not currently listed should be nominated. Category I historic properties should not be altered or demolished. All work on such properties shall be performed in accordance with Sections 106 and 110(f) of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended in 1980, and the regulations of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) as outlined in the "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR 800).
- b) An individual preservation plan should be developed and put into effect for each Category I historic property. This plan should delineate the appropriate restoration or preservation program to be carried out for the property. It should include a maintenance and repair schedule and estimated initial and annual costs. The preservation plan should be approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council in accordance with the above referenced ACHP regulation. Until the historic preservation plan is put into effect, Category I historic properties should be maintained in accordance with the recommended approaches of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings² and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

- c) Each Category I historic property should be documented in accordance with Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Documentation Level II, and the documentation submitted for inclusion in the HABS/HAER collections in the Library of Congress.³ When no adequate architectural drawings exist for a Category I historic property, it should be documented in accordance with Documentation Level I of these standards. In cases where standard measured drawings are unable to record significant features of a property or technological process, interpretive drawings also should be prepared.

Category II Historic Properties

All Category II historic properties not currently listed on or nominated to the National Register of Historic Places are assumed to be eligible for nomination regardless of age. The following general preservation recommendations apply to these properties:

- a) Each Category II historic property should be treated as if it were on the National Register, whether listed or not. Properties not currently listed should be nominated. Category II historic properties should not be altered or demolished. All work on such properties shall be performed in accordance with Sections 106 and 110(f) of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended in 1980, and the regulations of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) as outlined in the "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR 800).

- b) An individual preservation plan should be developed and put into effect for each Category II historic property. This plan should delineate the appropriate preservation or rehabilitation program to be carried out for the property or for those parts of the property which contribute to its historical, architectural, or technological importance. It should include a maintenance and repair schedule and estimated initial and annual costs. The preservation plan should be approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council in accordance with the above referenced ACHP regulations. Until the historic preservation plan is put into effect, Category II historic properties should be maintained in accordance with the recommended approaches in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings⁴ and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- c) Each Category II historic property should be documented in accordance with Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Documentation Level II, and the documentation submitted for inclusion in the HABS/HAER collections in the Library of Congress.⁵

Category III Historic Properties

The following preservation recommendations apply to Category III historic properties:

- a) Category III historic properties listed on or eligible for nomination to the National Register as part of a district or thematic group should be treated in accordance with Sections 106 and 110(f) of the National Historic Preservation Act as amended in 1980, and the regulations of the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation as outlined in the "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR 800). Such properties should not be demolished and their facades, or those parts of the property that contribute to the historical landscape, should be protected from major modifications. Preservation plans should be developed for groupings of Category III historic properties within a district or thematic group. The scope of these plans should be limited to those parts of each property that contribute to the district or group's importance. Until such plans are put into effect, these properties should be maintained in accordance with the recommended approaches in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings⁶ and in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- b) Category III historic properties not listed on or eligible for nomination to the National Register as part of a district or thematic group should receive routine maintenance. Such properties should not be demolished, and their facades, or those parts of the property that contribute to the historical landscape, should be protected

from modification. If the properties are unoccupied, they should, as a minimum, be maintained in stable condition and prevented from deteriorating.

HABS/HAER Documentation Level IV has been completed for all Category III historic properties, and no additional documentation is required as long as they are not endangered. Category III historic properties that are endangered for operational or other reasons should be documented in accordance with HABS/HAER Documentation Level III, and submitted for inclusion in the HABS/HAER collections in the Library of Congress.⁷ Similar structures need only be documented once.

CATEGORY I HISTORIC PROPERTIES

There are no Category I historic properties at Letterkenny Army Depot.

CATEGORY II HISTORIC PROPERTIES

James Finley House (Building 505)

- Background and Significance. The James Finley House, now the Commanding Officer's residence, is one of the nine pre-military farmhouses at Letterkenny and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites. The Finley House was constructed c. 1778 as a two and one-half story limestone and brick

farmhouse typical of those built in south central Pennsylvania in the eighteenth century. The original house was three bays in width; a two bay brick addition is of unknown date. A one-story porch that spans the west elevation and half the south elevation is now enclosed. The house has been extensively renovated but still retains its character and much of its architectural integrity.⁸

The Finley House is one of the oldest surviving dwellings in Franklin County and is important for its association with the Finleys, a family prominent in local affairs. It is a distinctive example of rural vernacular architecture of the late eighteenth century and helps to illustrate the lifestyle of the early residents of this section of Pennsylvania. The house is a Category II historic property because its importance as a work of architecture; because of its association with the Finleys; and because it is unique to its historic period (see Chapter 2, Civilian Land Use Prior to 1941, and Figure 3).⁹

- Condition and potential adverse impacts. The house has been well maintained, although altered through the years to accommodate changing tastes, and is in excellent condition. It is treated as a post landmark, and there are no current plans to alter or demolish this property.
- Preservation options. Refer to the general preservation recommendations at the beginning of the chapter for Category II historic properties listed on the National Register.

CATEGORY III HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Finley Barn (Building 507)

- Background and significance. The large dairy barn associated with the Finley House was built c. 1848 and has a hand-hewn heavy timber frame and stone base. Its southwest wall and part of its northwest wall are brick; the remaining walls are sided in wood. The barn has a large and pleasing, if undistinguished, mass. What makes the barn interesting is the unusual brick designs on its southwest wall, which may be seen at some distance. Open spaces left between some of the bricks (for the purpose of ventilating the barn) are patterned in hour-glass, diamond, and triangular shapes and are roughly symmetrical in layout. The origin of the shapes is probably German, or "Pennsylvania Dutch," since this area of Pennsylvania is known to have been inhabited in the eighteenth century by German immigrants (see Chapter 2, Civilian Land Use Prior to 1941, and Figure 6).

The barn is a Category III historic property because it contributes to the importance of the Finley House, a Category II historic property, and because it is locally important as a work of architecture.

- Condition and potential adverse impacts. The barn is in fair to good condition. There are no current plans to alter or demolish this property, but continued maintenance and repair of the structure is needed to insure its preservation.

- Preservation options. Refer to the general preservation measures in the beginning of this chapter for Category III historic structures not listed on the National Register.

Officers' Club and Guest House (Buildings 529 and 539)

- Background and significance. The Officers' Club and Guest House occupy a prominent location atop a hill in the main part of the installation. Both are pre-military structures: the Guest House was a farmhouse, and the Officers' Club was its adjacent dairy barn. The barn is a large and visually dramatic structure, with three handsome cupolas that crown its long ridge line. Well proportioned and evenly spaced windows, added during its conversion to an Officers' Club, do not detract from its overall character, and a one-story addition on its west end does not weaken the barn's bold massing. The barn is marked with an 1892 date. The adjacent two-story house (Guest House) appears to be of mid-nineteenth century origin, with a steep gothic gable projecting from the center of an otherwise normally pitched roof, and with decorative scroll work applied to the front porch. The house and the barn are both covered with aluminum siding, and the loss of architectural detail is noticeable. But the two buildings nonetheless form a very pleasing and architecturally interesting composition that is visible from most of the main base area. They are Category III historic structures because they are locally important as works of architecture (see Chapter 2, Civilian Land Use Prior to 1941, and Figures 4 and 7).

- Condition and potential adverse impacts. Both structures have been altered but have been maintained in good physical condition. There are no current plans to alter or demolish these structures.
- Preservation options. The general preservation recommendations for Category III historic properties not listed on the National Register apply to both these structures. However, consideration should be given to restoring their original wood exteriors as a long range maintenance and preservation measure.

Farm House (Building 3244)

- Background and significance. Building 3244 is the third of the three pre-military farmhouses at Letterkenny that are of architectural interest (the others are the Finley House and the Guest Quarters, described above). The house, which probably dates from the early nineteenth century, is a two-story rectangular structure with masonry load-bearing walls. It has the appearance of a double house, or a three-bay house with an additional three-bay extension. Its prominent screened-in front porch extends along the full width of the house. The even rhythm of the porch columns, combined with the long, rectangular mass of the house itself, its crisp detailing, and its excellent siting, make this an unusually handsome structure. It is a Category III historic property because it is locally important as a work of architecture (see Chapter 2, Civilian Land Use Prior to 1941, and Figure 5).

- Condition and potential adverse impacts. This property has been maintained in good physical condition, and at this time there are no current plans to alter or demolish this property.
- Preservation options. Refer to the general preservation recommendations for Category III historic properties not listed on the National Register.

Post Chapel (Building 637)

- Background and significance. As described in Chapter 2, the majority of structures at Letterkenny were built between 1941 and 1943, and virtually all were of standard design and construction. The one non-standard building is the Chapel (Building 637), which was built by Italian prisoners of war in 1944. The Chapel is a small and relatively plain wood building except for its arcaded front entry and adjacent Romanesque-style bell tower. Both entry and tower are constructed of red brick and concrete that is hand-formed to resemble rusticated masonry. The interior has a low, vaulted plaster ceiling. The Chapel is a Category III historic structure because it is locally important as a work of architecture and because of its unique association with the Italian Service Unit imprisoned at Letterkenny during the war (see Chapter 2, World War II Construction, and Figure 11).
- Condition and potential adverse impacts. The Chapel has been maintained in good physical condition, and there currently are no plans to alter or demolish this property.

- Preservation options. Refer to the general preservation recommendations at the beginning of this chapter for Category III historic structures not listed on the National Register.

NOTES

1. Army Regulation 420-40, Historic Preservation (Headquarters, U.S. Army: Washington, D.C., 15 April 1984).
2. National Park Service, Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Revised Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings, 1983 (Washington, D.C.: Preservation Assistance Division, National Park Service, 1983).
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